

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for a network device to claim ownership of a  
2 disk in a network storage system comprising the steps of:  
3 |       setting a first ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-  
4 |       work device; and  
5 |       setting a second ownership attribute on the disk to a state of ownership by the net-  
6 |       work device.
  
- 1 2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and  
2 the second ownership attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level  
3 3 persistent reservation tag.
  
- 1 3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first ownership attribute and  
2 the second ownership attribute further comprises ownership information written on a pre-  
3 determined area of the disk.
  
- 1 4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the ownership information further  
2 comprises a serial number of the network device.
  
- 1 5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the network device comprises a file  
2 server.

- 1 6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claiming ownership of a disk by a network device in a  
2 network storage system comprising the steps of:  
3 writing ownership information to a predetermined area of the disk; and  
4 setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a  
5 state of network device ownership.
- 1 7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6 wherein the ownership information further com-  
2 prises a serial number of a network device.
- 1 8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the network device comprises a file  
2 server.
- 1 9. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:  
2 a plurality of network devices;  
3 one or more switches, each network device connected to at least one of the one or  
4 more switch; and  
5 a plurality of disks having a first ownership attribute and a second ownership at-  
6 tribute, each disk connected to at least one of the plurality of switches.
- 1 10. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the first ownership  
2 attribute further comprises ownership information written on a predetermined area of the  
3 disk.

1 11. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the second ownership  
2 attribute further comprises a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reserva-  
3 tion tag.

1 12. (ORIGINAL) The networked storage system of claim 11, wherein each disk that is  
2 owned by the network device has the small computer system interface level 3 persistent  
3 reservation set such that only the network device may write to the disk.

1 13. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein the ownership in-  
2 formation further comprises of a serial number of the network device that owns that par-  
3 ticular disk.

1 14. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality  
2 of file servers can read data from each of the plurality of disks.

1 15. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 10, wherein only a network de-  
2 vice that owns one of the plurality of disks can write data to the one disk.

1 16. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 9, wherein the network devices  
2 comprise file servers.

1 17. (ORIGINAL) A network storage system comprising:  
2 one or more switches;

3 a plurality of disks; and  
4 a plurality of network devices, each of the network devices including means for  
5 claiming ownership of one of the plurality of disks in the network storage system.

1 18. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the means for claim-  
2 ing ownership further comprises:  
3 means for writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and  
4 means for setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation  
5 on a disk.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 17, wherein the network devices  
2 comprise file servers.

1 20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A network storage system comprising:  
2 one or more switches interconnected to form a switching fabric;  
3 a plurality of disks, each of the disks connected to at least one of the switches,  
4 each disk storing a first ownership attribute and a second ownership attribute; and  
5 one or more network devices, interconnected with the switching fabric, each of  
6 the network devices being adapted to own a predetermined set of disks of the plurality of  
7 disks through use of the first and second ownership attributes.

21. (CANCELLED)

1 | 22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The network storage system of claim ~~21~~ 20, wherein  
2 | the first ownership attribute is ownership information written to a predetermined area of  
3 | each of the disks.

1 | 23. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 22, wherein the ownership in-  
2 | formation further comprises a serial number of one of the one or more network devices.

1 | 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The network storage system of claim ~~21~~ 20, wherein  
2 | the second ownership information is a small computer system interface level 3 persistent  
3 | reservation.

1 | 25. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 20, wherein each of the network  
2 | devices further comprises a disk ownership table, the disk ownership table containing  
3 | ownership data for each of the disks.

1 | 26. (ORIGINAL) The network storage system of claim 25, wherein the ownership table  
2 | further comprises a world wide name for each of the disks, the world wide name being  
3 | used for identification of each of the disks.

1 | 27. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium, including program instructions execut-  
2 | ing on network device, for performing the steps of:  
3 |       writing ownership information to a predetermined area of a disk; and  
4 |       setting a small computer system interface level 3 persistent reservation tag to a  
5 | state of network device ownership.